

Director's Overview

Immunization Grant FY2012.

Project Narrative:

The Immunization Program will target children ages 19-35 months, adolescents, adults at increased risk of hepatitis B infection and minorities and other traditionally underimmunized populations.

The program ensures VFC (Vaccines for Children) providers have access to and administer all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended vaccines, keeps providers abreast of relevant developments in the vaccine field and maintains their awareness of the epidemiology of vaccine preventable disease in Delaware and nationwide. By conducting regular provider site visits, the program ensures providers administer only viable vaccine and also encourages providers to improve their vaccine immunization rates through:

- Implementation of provider reminder or recall systems.
- Education targeting parents and providers.
- Measures to reduce out-of-pocket costs for vaccines.
- Expanding access to immunizations through increased clinic hours and other measures.
- Giving feedback to providers on their performance indicators.

Analysis of data from the NIS (National Immunization survey), the registry, the census, BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) and school surveys enables the program to identify under-immunized populations and assure their access to vaccine. The program also contracts outreach activities that provide immunization services and education to under-immunized or at risk populations.

Collaboration with the Dept. of Education and the Office of Child Care Licensing allows the program to ensure high immunization rates for enrolled children. Collaboration with STD clinics, family planning clinics and HIV testing and counseling centers ensures populations at risk of hepatitis B infection have access to the vaccine. The program also manages a firefighter hepatitis B program to immunize members of Volunteer Fire Companies.

The program will unveil a new immunization registry with improved functionality in September, 2011. The new registry will help attain the goal of ensuring all children in Delaware are enrolled in the immunization registry and that their immunization records are available to medical providers, school administrators and parents.

Budget Comparison

The FY 2012 grant request of \$1,816,872.00 represents a reduction of <5 % over the FY 2011 request of \$1,887,946. This change is due to a federal fiscal policy. Despite this change the program will be able to maintain services.

Relationship to State Budget.

The state is not required to match federal immunization funds.